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Dear parents,

In the light of recent government directives, I am writing to inform you of the phased reopening of St George's School. The intention is to make the return careful and controlled and to minimise any risk posed to children, staff and parents. The strategy outlined below is subject to teacher availability and government requirements remaining unchanged.

Some of the new arrangements may seem unusual or even harsh, but they are imperative for the safety of the school community. I would like to thank the parents of children in reception, year 1, year 6 and those of you who are key workers for completing our online survey. This enabled us to gauge the likely take up of places and plan accordingly.

You will notice that the school environment will look and feel very different to normal, and the school day will be organised in a very different way. The routines described below are necessary to ensure the smooth and safe running of the school at this challenging time whilst implementing governmental requirements.

I would also like to draw parents attention to an important letter from Michael Blundell, our chair of governors, that is being distributed along with this letter today. I would like to thank him and all other governors for their support during this challenging time.

Phased reopening

Monday 1 June – Teacher training day and preparation week. School open only, as now, for the children of key workers.

During the lockdown period we have been using a very limited number of classrooms. Teachers need to prepare the classrooms ready for the children and in light of social distancing requirements. The school site will be prepared for opening for additional children.

Monday 8 June – Reception children whose parents have indicated that they will send their children to school will start.



Revised arrival and departure times will be forwarded to those parents to allow for safer drop off and pick up. We will remain open for children of key workers.

Monday 15 June – our aim is to introduce another year group at this stage, but there are many factors to consider. We will inform you as soon as possible when a decision is able to be made.

How will the children be organised?

Drop-off and Pick-up

We will be operating a one way system on site for drop off and pick-up. Please follow staff directions at all times and adhere to social distancing guidance.

- Entrance to the school site will be via Gordon Road and exit will be via Halifax Road, following a strict one way system.
- Only one adult per child permitted
- Drop-off and Pick-up will be staggered in order to ensure we are able to maintain social distancing. You will have an allocated drop-off and pick-up time.
- Allocated times cannot be changed. If you miss your slot you will have to wait until the end of the drop off/pick up cycle.
- Do not arrive/queue early. Wait for your group to be called at the allocated time. Please do not congregate in groups at the school gate.
- There will be a strict one way system in place in the playgrounds. Staff and signage will direct you through the playground. There will be a drop off zone to hand over your child.
 - Please do not leave the cordoned off area.
 - Please do not stop to chat to staff.
 - Please maintain a 2m distance between yourself and the next parent and child.
- You and your child will need to use the hand sanitising stations in the playground upon entry each morning/afternoon.
- At pick –up time you will be directed to where to queue for your child upon entering the playground.
- You will not be able to speak to the class teacher in person. Please continue to communicate with teachers by emailing or phoning the school office.
- The Cheviot Road entrance will remain closed. Children **must not** be dropped off at the school office. Should you need to speak to school staff please do so via phone/email.

Travel to and from school

- We recommend parents and children walk to school where possible, and following the recommendations from Transport for London, to avoid public transport where possible. We

would also ask you to avoid car sharing/pooling during this time. This will also help reduce congestion at pick-up and drop-off time.

- We will be unable to store scooters at this time. If using to travel to school parents must take them home each morning.

The School Day

- Children will be supervised in groups of 11 max.
- Groups will not mix during the school day. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered to facilitate this. Each group will have sole use of the playground for break, lunch and outside learning. There will be a timetable for staff to facilitate this.
- Children will have the same adult(s) in their room each day. It is not possible to ensure that the teacher will be their usual classroom teacher, so it is highly likely that they will be taught by another teacher.
- Handwashing facilities will be available in each classroom.
- Children will notify staff if they need to use the bathroom and will be monitored in the corridor, to ensure social distancing and handwashing. Only one pupil at a time will access the toilets.
- Activities will be tailored to meet the needs of the pupils. New routines and rules will need to be established
- Activities which support re-integration, pupil safety and mental health & wellbeing will be our priority. We will not be following the national curriculum initially and will gradually introduce Maths and English activities revising topics already covered this year.
- Lunches will be provided by the schools meal service. Children will eat in their classroom. Children may choose to bring a packed lunch from home.

Uniform and Clothing

- Pupils can return to uniform (we are now wearing summer uniform), this is preferable yet optional.
- All clothing, personal choice or uniform, should be changed and washed daily.
- Children will not be asked to bring PE kit to school.
- Children should wear trainers to school to allow for physical activities outside
- Sun cream, if required, should be applied before school. Children may be spending time more outside than usual.

Personal Belongings

On the first day of school we would ask children to bring

1. A story book/novel/reading for pleasure book from home, labelled with your child's name. This book will stay in school and not be returned home each day.

2. A new, unopened small pack of colouring pencils, labelled with your child's name. If you have any difficulty in finding these, please let us know.

Pupils should not bring personal items to school other than those named above.

- No school bags. Children should only bring their lunch box/bag and coat, if inclement weather.
- No pencil cases. School will provide required equipment.
- No toys from home, including for example, Rubik's cubes, small cars, dolls and action figures.
- Children will not be able to bring comforters or cuddly toys.
- We will be unable to store scooters at this time.
- We will not be sending home homework or reading books.

Prayer

Today's prayer is from CAFOD.

Your loving care

Lord Jesus,

when you walked with us on earth

you spread your healing power.

We place in your loving care

all who are affected by Coronavirus.

Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.

Bring relief to our sick,

console our bereaved,

protect those who care for us.

We lift our prayer to you Lord,

and trust in your infinite mercy,

as we wait for the daybreak.

Amen.



Thank You

I would like to thank all our parents and carers for your understanding and patience at this time. The responses to our survey revealed a real uncertainty for parents who are genuinely wanting to do the right thing for their children but with such confusing and conflicting advice, are finding the decision

very difficult. We completely understand your dilemma and hope that the coming weeks provide more clarity and reliable scientific advice to inform your choices. It is important to note that if parents wish to keep their children at home, no fines or penalties will be issued for non-attendance. We keep you and your children in our prayers at school each day.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P O'Rourke
Headteacher